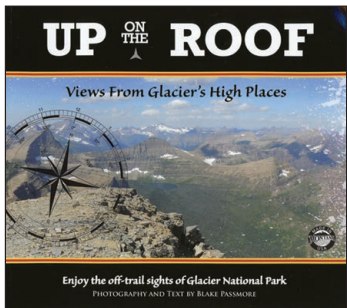


ABOUT BOOKS

**Up on the Roof, Views From
Glacier's High Places**
AND

**What They Called It: Stories
of Glacier's Names Along
Going-To-The-Sun Road**

By Blake Passmore
Published 2014 by Montana Outdoor
Guidebooks, LLC, Kalispell, MT
\$19.95 softcover



Two books by avid hiker and mountain climber Blake Passmore give readers even more reasons to be in awe of the splendor that is Glacier National Park. His first book, *What They Called It: Stories of Glacier's Names Along Going-To-The-Sun Road*, takes readers on a guided tour of the drive from West Glacier to St. Mary, via Logan Pass.

The names of mountains, creeks, lakes, waterfalls, glaciers, and passes that can be seen from this famous thoroughfare are given, along with their origins. Famous explorers and champions of preserving the park are named and their roles in placing monikers on features are noted.

His second book, *Up on the Roof, Views From Glacier's High Places*, also published last year, offers readers spectacular vistas from several mountain summits. Panoramic photographs display a vast area of rugged scenery that can only be seen and appreciated from these elevations. In each photograph, he identifies the prominent peaks seen from different directions.

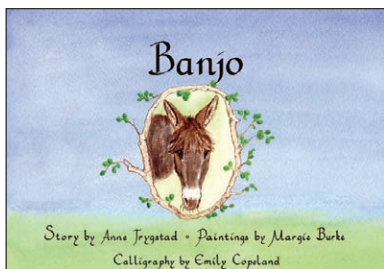
For the hiker and climber, it's a treat to see the peaks named, and check them off a list. For the non-hiker, it's a wonderful armchair journey. Peering into the heart of the park, seeing the view beyond the roadways, is truly an awe-inspiring experience.

Passmore is the author of five books about Glacier National Park, including the *Climb Glacier National Park* guidebook series. He lives in the Flathead Valley, and can most often be found roaming his favorite places in the park.

— Judy Shafter

Banjo

By Anne Trygstad, with paintings
by Margie Burke and calligraphy
by Emily Copeland
Published 2014 by Red Berry
Editions, Kensington, CA
\$25 hardcover



In this enchanting little tale, a lonely old donkey lives alone in a big red barn, with only a radio (and a diminutive mouse) to keep him company. It's not a bad life: he has hay, shelter, and a down blanket to wear in the winter. But as spring arrives, and the creek roars, robins sing, and grass turns green, he emerges, and clops down the road to a grove of aspen trees.

His outing leads him to new friends: five furry horses, three dogs, and a person who offers a slice of apple. The little donkey is no longer lonesome: "He doesn't need his radio anymore."

The story and illustrations are sure to delight young readers, who will find lots of creatures to ogle on every page, including sandhill cranes, a fox, a rabbit, deer, robins, bluebirds, and the furry horses and dogs. It's also a good reminder that patience and curiosity can yield rich rewards.

Anne Trygstad, who lives near Bozeman, describes herself as "a friend of Banjo," who studied Scandinavian literature and Old Norse and medieval runic inscriptions. She raises and rides Icelandic horses (hence the tale's shaggy horses).

Calligrapher Emily Copeland is a librarian at the middle school in Manhattan, MT, and illustrator Margie Burke resides in San Francisco.

— Kristi Niemeyer

Crazy Mountain Kiss

By Keith McCafferty
Published 2015 by Viking and Penguin Books,
New York, NY
\$26.95 hardcover

Keith McCafferty's fourth fly-fishing mystery novel reunites beloved characters private investigator Sean Stranahan and Hyalite County Sheriff Martha Ettinger to solve a gruesome murder case.

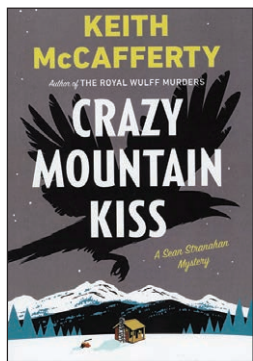
Set in Montana's Crazy Mountains, the story opens with the discovery of the dead body of a teenage girl wedged in the rock chimney of a remote cabin. Uncovering the circumstances that brought her to this tragic end takes Stranahan on a wild ride of discovery, involving a number of colorful characters and situations that propel him into danger (and the occasional amorous involvement).

Having cooled their intimate friendship for various reasons, Ettinger is usually on hand to spar with Stranahan while they unravel clues to the girl's initial disappearance and subsequent death. Their dialogue is crisp and clever. She's smart and savvy, and he has the reputation of "a man who can get to the bottom of a dark river."

McCafferty brings in characters that you would love to spend a day on the river with, or, on the other hand, not meet in a dark alley. There is the lovely and aloof mother of the victim, the phony too-sentimental stepfather, a grimy horse trainer, an overly amorous librarian, a monster-sized "mountain man," and a cast of local "regulars," who all converge to keep readers wondering where the mystery is headed.

The author's references to geographical landmarks and his sentiment for the art of fly-fishing are a constant undercurrent that courses through all of his novels and gives dimension to his stories and their players.

The Bozeman-based writer is an award-winning survival and outdoor skills editor for *Field & Stream* magazine and previously authored *The Royal Wulff Murders*, *The Gray Ghost Murders*, and *Dead Man's Fancy*.



Daring Passage: Book Two of the Spirited Away Saga

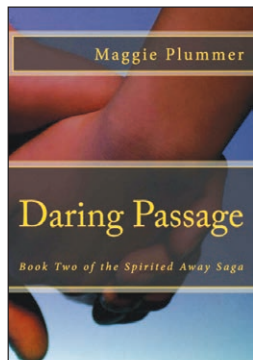
By Maggie Plummer
Published 2014 by CreateSpace Independent
Publishing, North Charleston, SC
\$12.95 softcover or \$2.99 e-book, published
by Kindle Direct Publishing

Polson author Maggie Plummer returns to the 1600s and the New World for the sequel to her first novel, *Spirited Away – A Novel of the Stolen Irish*, which paints an intimate portrait of 1650s Irish slavery in the Caribbean.

Daring Passage picks up Irish slave Freddy O'Brennan's story where the first book left off, delivering readers "into the teeth of the storm." It's still 1656, and the protagonist is on the run. Determined to protect her young children and keep her family together, she braves tempestuous seas, treacherous castaways, and corrupt English authorities.

Romantic sparks between Freddy and ship Captain Colin Shea Brophy smolder and threaten to explode. As they paddle dugout canoes into the wild unknown, Freddy and her companions must navigate a choking gauntlet of ruthless slave catchers, frontier bounty hunters, warring natives, and a slave-raiding renegade out for blood.

The author has worked as a journalist, book editor, and myriad other pursuits. She's also the author of *Passing It On: Voices from the Flathead Indian Reservation*.



Animal Weapons: The Evolution of Battle

By Douglas J. Emlen, illustrated by David J.
Tuss
Published 2014 by Henry Holt and Company
LLC, New York, NY
\$30 hardcover

What do beetles and battleships, crabs and the Cold War have in common? The answer is weapons. Animals and humans both possess a variety of ways to defend themselves, some more efficiently than others.

In his new book, evolutionary biologist Douglas Emlen tells us that when it comes to weapons, bigger is not always better. *Animal Weapons* explores why and when the most spectacular and formidable defenses cease to be an asset.

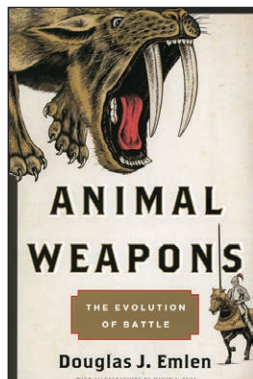
Emlen's specialty is entomology, and he's spent considerable time studying beetle behavior in very unfriendly places, where everything wants to sting or bite you. Drawing comparisons between insect and human behavior, he concludes, "The rules governing growth and use of those big displays of virility apply with surprising uniformity throughout the animal kingdom."

Emlen also draws parallels between human military escalation and development and the evolution of weapons in animals. For example, animals sap their own bodies of much-needed calcium to grow large sets of antlers or claws; by the same token, humans sap their country's finances to build powerful weapons to wage war.

Animal Weapons offers a fascinating, insightful look at an amazing variety of creatures – including our own species. Superb illustrations support the narrative throughout.

Emlen is a professor of biology at The University of Montana and the recipient of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers from the White House. He also garnered several research awards from the National Science Foundation and won the E.O. Wilson Naturalist Award. He previously co-authored *Evolution: Making Sense of Life* with Carl Zimmer.

— Judy Shafter



The Wild Inside

By Christine Carbo
Published 2015 by Atria Paperback, a division
of Simon and Schuster, Inc., New York
City, NY
\$16 softcover

Christine Carbo's debut novel is set nearly in the Whitefish author's backyard, against the stunning backdrop of Glacier National Park. When a young man is found duct-taped to a tree and half eaten, presumably by a grizzly bear, special agent for the Department of the Interior Ted Systead is summoned from Denver to investigate.

The victim is a drug dealer and general low-life with several enemies. But who would want to kill him? Systead reluctantly teams up with park officer Monty Harris to unearth the answer.

What Systead does not reveal to his co-investigator is that when he was 14, his father was killed by a grizzly on a back-country camping trip with his son in Glacier. It was in the papers, but that was years ago.

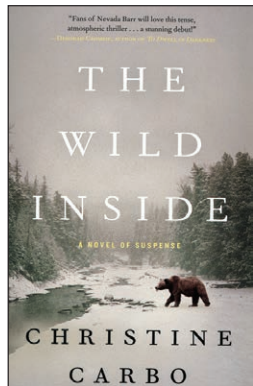
As Systead methodically goes through the investigative process he discovers that the man was shot before being attacked. When the grizzly is captured, a tug-of-war ensues with the park superintendent over what to do about recovering evidence.

On the surface, Systead is driven only to solve the crime. But the past still haunts him and occasional flashbacks take the reader into another dimension, showing a side of the detective that is still raw, troubled, and haunted by his father's death.

Carbo deftly describes her characters, fleshing out the events and the setting to give a clear picture of what preceded the crime. Her knowledge of the park and insight into the politics at stake add significantly to the story. From beginning to end, the work is an enjoyable read with elements of suspense, enlightenment, tenderness, and finally, closure.

"Carbo paints a moving picture of complex, flawed people fighting to make their way in a wilderness where little is black or white, except the smoky chiaroscuro of the sweeping Montana sky," writes *Publishers Weekly*.

— Judy Shafter



9

How to submit a book for State of the Arts

To submit a book by a Montana author for inclusion in *State of the Arts'* "About Books" section:

Please send a copy of the book to *Lively Times*, 33651 Eagle Pass Trl., Charlo, MT 59824; or submit the following information electronically to writeus@livelytimes.com or mac@mt.gov:

- Title, author, publisher, publisher's address and month/year published;
- Price and whether it's hard- or soft-cover;
- A brief description of the book (no more than 200 words), and a short bio of the author;
- A cover image: minimum 200 dpi in pdf, jpg or tiff file;
- If other publications or authors have reviewed the book, send a brief sampling of those remarks.

If you would like us to return the book, include a note with it saying so. (We will pay for shipping.)

E-books: We'll also mention books that are only electronically published: send title, author, a cover image, website for downloads, and a brief paragraph about the book.

Books submitted to *State of the Arts* appear in this publication at the Montana Arts Council's discretion and as space permits, and will not necessarily be reprinted in *Lively Times*.